

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER PALME'S THIRD WORLD STANCE PRAISED
IN MEXICO

REF: STOCKHOLM 2877

1. SUMMARY: DURING SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME'S
VISIT TO MEXICO JUNE 20-24, HE MET WITH PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA
ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND ADDRESSED THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
YEAR CONFERENCE (WCIWY). PALME'S THIRD WORLD STANCE--
AT TIMES HE RIVALED ECHEVERRIA S AN ARDENT ADVOCATE OF A
NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS'
RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP THE LESS DEVELOPED CLOSE THE GAP IN
WEALTH AND LIVING STANDARDS BETWEEN THEM WAS WARMLY APPLAUDED
BY THE MEXICAN LEADERSHIP AND PRESS. DURING A JOINT PRESS
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CONFERENCE WITH ECHEVERRIA ON THE LAST DAY OF THIS VISIT, PALME

MADE A THINLY VEILED ATTACK ON THE US FOR IS ROLE IN VIETNAM WAR AND COMMENTED ON THE MILITARY REGIMES IN PORTUGAL AND CHILE. END SUMMARY.

2. PALME AS A THIRD WORLDER. THROUGHOUT HIS VISITS, PALME TOOK A STRONG, UNEQUIVOCAL STAND IN SUPPORT OF THIRD WORLD POSITIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, SPEAKING AT A DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ON JUNE 21 PALME SAID INTER ALIA... "THE EXISTING ORDER WHICH FAVORS THE POWERFUL NATIONS, POWERFUL NOT ONLY MILITARILY BUT ALSO ECONOMICALLY AND TECHNOLOGICALLY, SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH A NEW WORLD ORDER." HE WENT ON: "EACH COUNTRY HAS A RIGHT TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. ONCE ACHIEVING NATIONAL LIBERATION, THEY (I.E., NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATIONS) HAVE FALLEN UNDER NEOCOLONIALIST DEPENDENCE ON A LARGE NUMBER OF DEVELOPED NATIONS". HE ALSO ATTACKED "COLONIAL OPPRESSION OR ANY OTHER FORM OF FOREIGN OPPRESSION" AS CONTINUING MENANCES TO PEACE AND BARS TO THE REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.

3. ADDRESSING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE ON JUNE 23, PALME REITERATED ECHEVERRIA'S ARGUMENT THAT "NO WOMAN IS MORE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST THAN THE WOMAN WHO DOES NOT HAVE BREAD, SCHOOLING, AND MEDICINE FOR HER CHILDREN". PARALLELING ECHEVERRIA'S REASONING CLOSELY, PALME CONCLUDED: "THIS IS THE WORST FORM OF EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND RESULTS FROM THE UNJUST ECONOMIC SYSTEM PREVAILING IN THE WORLD.Z

4. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PALME ENDORSED THE THIRD WORLD CAMPAIGN FOR A "NEW ECONOMIC ORDER" AS "A PREREQUISITE FOR PEACE" AND THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS) AS A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD ACHIEVING THIS.

5. PALME'S THIRD WORLD STANCE WON CONSIDERABLE PRAISE IN EDITORIALS AND FROM GOM OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT. PALME, THEY NOTED, WAS ONE OF THE FEW LEADERS OF A DEVELOPED NATION WHO REALLY UNDERSTOOD AND SYMPATHIZED WITH THE THIRD WORLD AND ITS PROBLEMS AND ASPIRATIONS.

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6. DISARMAMENT: PALME AND ECHEVERRIA GAVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO DISARMAMENT. THEIR COMMUNIQUE URGES AN INTENSIFICATION OF THE EFFORT TO ACCELERATE DISARMAMENT AND THE DIVERSION OF RESORCES FROM ARMS TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IN PARTICULAR, THEY CONDEMNED NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS AND PRAISED NUCLEAR FREE ZONES SUCH AS THE ONE ESTABLISHED IN LATIN AMERICA UNDER THE TREATY OF TRATELOLCO.

7. IN A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH ECHEVERRIA ON JUNE 24, PALME CALLED ON THE NATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD TO JOIN IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GREAT POWERS ARMING THEMSELVES (ARMAMENTISMO) AND ESPECIALLY AGAINST THE USE OF "CRUEL WEAPONS SUCH AS NAPALM AND CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS."

8. THINLY VEILED ATTACK ON US ROLE IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM: AT THE SAME PRESS CONFERENCE, PALME SAID THAT HE CONSIDERS AGGRESSION BY A GREAT POWER, SUCH AS OCCURRED IN VIETNAM, UNLIKELY TO OCCUR AGAIN. NEVERTHELESS, HE WENT ON TO URGE ALL NATIONS TO BE ALERT TO THE DANGER OF "FOREIGN INTERVENTION WHICH CAN TAKE MANY FORMS AND EXISTS IN LATIN AMERICA, ASIA, AFRICA, AND EVEN EUROPE."

9. MILITARY GOVERNMENTS: PALME ALSO SAID THAT IN GENERAL HE WAS AGAINST ALLOWING MILITARY OFFICERS TO HAVE POLITICAL POWER. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THERE ARE EXCEPTIONAL CASES, SUCH AS IN PORTUGAL, WHERE THE MILITARY COUP BROUGHT A CHANGE TOWARD DEMOCRACY. SWEDEN, HE ADDED, VIEWS THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION "WITH SATISFACTION". ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS THE CASE OF CHILE WHERE THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN "THE MAXIMUM EXPRESSION OF REGRESSION AND AGGRESSION."

10. ECONOMICS OF THE VISIT: PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ECHEVERRIA AND PALME DISCUSSED SEVERAL JOINT INVESTMENT PROJECTS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGING MEXICAN OIL FOR SWEDISH TECHNOLOGY. ON JUNE 23, PALME ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING OF A CONVENTION DESIGNED TO INCREASE TRADE, TOURISM AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. AXEL IVEROTH, HEAD OF THE COMMERCIAL PORTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DELEGATION, ANNOUNCED THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND MEXICO WILL BE FOR THEIR "MUTUAL BENEFIT" AND NOT GIFTS TO AID THE LATTER'S DEVELOPMENT.

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11. BIO NOTE: THIS WAS PALME'S SECOND VISIT TO MEXICO CITY. AFTER FINISHING STUDIES AT A US UNIVERSITY IN 1958, PALME SPENT JUNE AND JULY VISITING AND HELPING TWO OF HIS COUSINS, RAMON AND RENE PALME, WHO RESIDE AND OPERATE A HARDWARE STORE HERE.

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